

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A user-customizable vehicle notification system comprising:
 - storage for storing at least one audio file on a vehicle and associating each at least one audio file with activation of a vehicle function; and
 - an audio player for selectively playing the at least one audio file upon activation of the associated vehicle function.
2. The system of claim 1 further including at least one speaker for receiving an audio signal from the audio player.
3. The system of claim 1 further including a wireless receiver for receiving the at least one audio file and storing the at least one audio file in the storage.
4. The system of claim 1 further including a user interface for associating the at least one audio file with the vehicle function.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein the user interface further provides for the selection of the at least one audio file over a wide area network.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein the user interface is provided on a user's computer.
7. The system of claim 1 further including a handheld device for temporarily storing the at least one audio file and for sending the at least one audio file to the storage.
8. The system of claim 7 further including a wireless receiver for receiving the at least one audio file and storing the at least one audio file in the storage, and wherein the handheld device includes a wireless transmitter for sending the at least one audio file to the wireless receiver.

9. The system of claim 8 further including a user interface for associating the at least one audio file with the vehicle function.
10. The system of claim 9 wherein the user interface further provides for the selection of the at least one audio file over a wide area network.
11. The system of claim 10 wherein the user interface is provided on a user's computer.
12. The system of claim 11 wherein the at least one audio file is a compressed audio file.
13. The system of claim 12 wherein the at least one audio file includes a plurality of different audio files, each associated with a different one of the plurality of vehicle functions.
14. The system of claim 1 further including a transducer for recording audio to a first audio file of the at least one audio file, the first audio file stored in the storage and associated with a first vehicle function, the audio player selectively playing the first audio file upon activation of the first vehicle function.
15. The system of claim 1 wherein the associated vehicle function is the locking a remote keyless entry system.
16. The system of claim 1 wherein the associated vehicle function is an alarm on a security system.

17. A method for playing an audio file including the steps of:
 - a) selecting an audio file;
 - b) storing the selected audio file on a vehicle;
 - c) associating the selected audio file with a vehicle function; and
 - d) playing the selected audio file based upon activation of the vehicle function.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein step a) further includes the step of:
 - e) accessing the audio file from a computer over a wide area network.
19. The method of claim 18 further including the step of:
 - f) sending the selected audio file wirelessly to the vehicle after said step a).
20. The method of claim 19 wherein said step f) further includes the step of sending the selected audio file wirelessly from the computer to the vehicle.
21. The method of claim 19 wherein said step f) further includes the steps of:
 - g) sending the selected audio file wirelessly to an intermediate storage device; and
 - h) sending the selected audio file from the intermediate storage device to the vehicle.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the selected audio file is transmitted wirelessly in said step h).
23. The method of claim 17 further including the steps of:
 - g) sending the selected audio file to an intermediate storage device; and
 - h) sending the selected audio file from the intermediate storage device to the vehicle.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the selected audio file is transmitted wirelessly in said step g).
25. The method of claim 23 wherein the intermediate storage device is a key fob.